

What is claimed is:

1. In a local area network attached to a larger network, a method for maintaining an acceptable use policy comprising:

5 a. monitoring communications of users comprising the local area network;

b. testing the stored communication for the presence of preselected criteria;

10 c. deleting the communication if the presence of said preselected criteria is not determined;

d. storing the communication if the presence of preselected criteria is determined.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said preselected criteria comprises subject matter categories of regular expressions.

3. The method of claim 3, wherein said regular expressions are weighted.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said regular expressions are weighted with either positive or negative values.

5. A method for monitoring and maintaining an acceptable use policy for computer network usage comprising:

- 5
- a. capturing data on a network;
 - b. removing data content that does not contain language elements;
 - c. testing the remaining content for the presence of predetermined regular expressions;
 - d. maintaining a sum of regular expressions found within a category;
 - e. storing the remaining data if the sum of regular expressions present exceeds a threshold value.